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ABSTRACT

Noting that reading and writing in second-grade classrooms have undergone dramatic changes in the past 10 years, this book provides ideas that engage the second grader and transform the classroom into a more meaningful place in which to learn. The book discusses reading and writing from the developmental point of view, how to organize and set up the classroom, how to put rituals in place that help the classroom run smoothly, the importance of talking and listening, successful ways to involve students in evaluation, developmental characteristics of 7- and 8-year-olds, sample of classroom charts, and student writing samples. Chapters in the book are: (1) Second Grade: A New Look; (2) Smiles with Spaces: Developmental Considerations; (3) Beginning with Grit and Grace; (4) Pass the Book: Reading with Second Graders; (5) Pass That Book Again; (6) The Writing Habit; (7) Managing and Extending the Writing Habit; (8) The Power Tools: Listening and Talk; and (9) Reflection and Evaluation. An epilogue (Keep the Music Playing), evaluation instruments, a list of strategies to help young readers, and rules for book conversations are attached. (RS)

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